



Massachusetts National Guard

Public Affairs

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News Release

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July 4, 2006

Carter Promoted to Brigadier General

Joseph C. Carter of Oak Bluffs, Mass., has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Carter, a 32-year veteran, is the first African-American to be federally recognized as a General Officer in the Massachusetts National Guard's 370-year history.

"I'm humbled to be the one at this time and this place to achieve this honor," Carter said. "I pledge to serve with integrity, honor and professionalism as I support The Adjutant General in achieving his vision for the Massachusetts Army National Guard."

Carter's promotion is symbolic of his abilities, accomplishments and dedication to the men and women of the Massachusetts National Guard and to public service, said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason, Jr., The Adjutant General of Massachusetts.

"General Carter's selection as a general officer is fitting recognition of his lifetime of accomplishments and commitment to this historic military organization," Mason said.

Carter serves as chief of police for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. Prior to assuming his MBTA position, Carter served for nearly five years as chief of the Oak Bluffs Police Department and for 20 years with the Boston Police Department before that.

Carter entered the Massachusetts Army National Guard in January 1974 and rose to the rank of staff sergeant prior to receiving his commission as a second lieutenant at the Massachusetts Military Academy on July 17, 1979. He currently serves as assistant adjutant general.

Previous assignments include: J-5 (strategic plans & international affairs), commander of the Massachusetts Military Reservation, division chief of intelligence and security, military intelligence officer, tactical surveillance officer, military police battalion logistics officer, MP company commander, MP platoon leader, infantry detachment commander; and infantry platoon leader.

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Carter's military decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (4 awards), National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Massachusetts Emergency Service Medal (3 awards) and the Massachusetts Service Medal.

Carter possesses a bachelor's degree in organizational behavior and management from Lesley University and a Master of Arts degree in criminal justice administration from Atlanta University. His military education includes the U.S. Army War College, where he received his Master of Strategic Studies degree in July 2002. He also is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Military Intelligence Officer Advance Course, Military Police Officer Basic Course, Counter-Terrorism Analyst Course and Counter-Intelligence Officer Course.

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